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I hereby companies correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on January 21, 2009.

John .J. Kelly

Reg. No.: 29,182

Examiner

: Mark L. Shevin

Art Unit

: 1793

Docket No.

: 52433/797

Conf. No.

: 7148

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor(s)

Tadashi ISHIKAWA et al.

Serial No.

10/535,346

Filed

October 3, 2005

For

METHOD OF PRODUCTION OF STEEL PRODUCT WITH

NANOCRYSTALLIZED SURFACE LAYER

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

AMENDMENT IN RCE

SIR:

The present Amendment is being filed in a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above identified patent application. Reconsideration of the above-identified patent application, as amended, is respectfully requested. The present amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed April 17, 2008 and the Advisory Action mailed November 4, 2008.

A petition for an Extension of Time in which to file an Appeal Brief accompanies this Amendment. This Request for Continued Examination (RCE) and Amendment are being filed instead of an Appeal Brief.